

PLAN OF THE WEEK

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Command Column

CDR J. S. Burhoe
Executive Officer



I'd like to dedicate this week's column to SCPO Michael Hooks. I consider him one of Training Center Yorktown's many "unsung heroes." As you all know, Senior Chief Hooks is our Chief Master at Arms and has the responsibility for maintaining four barracks and overseeing the barracks maintenance and management contract.

Of course, he does all this while providing direct leadership to as many as 50 non-rates waiting for school, along with those who, for one reason or another, have to be disenrolled from school. I have often referred to the CMAA job as one of the most unenviable yet one of the most essential jobs here at TRACEN Yorktown.

What makes Senior Chief Hooks so remarkable is how easy he makes it look. I've often remarked to the CO how I think we could use two people assigned to each barracks, two people assigned to the transients, and two people to deal with those students who find themselves in disciplinary or academic trouble. Instead, we have two people who do everything.

Senior Chief Hooks, not one to ever take personal credit for anything, would point to all the help he gets from BM1 Wewer, and he's right. Petty Officer Wewer is another key player here...but I also know that BM1 Wewer would point right where I'm pointing and say there is no one who deserves more credit than our own SCPO Hooks. Thanks for all you do every day...we couldn't do it without you!

Congratulations:

MSTC Dave Swisher and his wife are the proud parents of a baby boy, 8 lbs 7 oz, 21.5" long, named Joshua Israel, born on 2 March.

Change to Uniform Regulations:

ALCOAST 087/00 gave the Commanding Officers discretion to authorize unit or standard issue CG blue ball caps to be worn with the tropical blue long uniform on board shore units. This change also indicated that ball caps would not be worn with the tropical blue long uniform when a higher level of formality is appropriate. The local policy adopted for Training Center Yorktown is that unit and CG ball caps will not be worn with the tropical uniform. This applies to students and permanent party.

ALCOAST 087/00 did not allow the CO to authorize students to wear ball caps with tropes. While there is latitude to authorize ball caps with tropes for permanent party, I think most of you would agree that Yorktown is a "special" place. In addition to training the Coast Guard workforce, we stand as a model for professionalism and military appearance. Requiring permanent party to continue wearing either the garrison or combination cap with tropes ensures uniformity throughout the Training Center and keeps students from asking, "Why can't I?" The policy we have adopted will allow for a consistent uniform standard throughout our TRACEN population.

A Look Ahead:

10 Mar: 1130, Chili Cook-Off Grand Finale: Finalists from YOA, CPOA, CGEA compete. Picnic Pavilion (fair) or Port of York (foul).

10 Mar: 1300, MK "A" 10-00 Graduation, Elbert/Martin Breezeway, MKC Ross, x2105.

10 Mar: 1400, "Wetting Down" for MKCM Rowe, MKCM Ayer, MKCS Farynaz, YNCS Paris, MKC Lemay, Port of York.

11 Mar: 0830-1600, USCG Auxiliary SAR Course, Hamilton, LT Bradley, x2497.

16 MAR: 1130-1330, Millennium Joint Services Luncheon, sponsored by Yorktown Officers Spouses Club, Port of York, LT Miller, x2249.

Important Items to Know:

⚓ The Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery Tests (ASVAB) are used as a tool to measure minimum aptitude levels for Coast Guard Officer accession programs, as well as entrance into "A" schools and other special programs. Recent changes to Coast Guard policy now provide a member the opportunity to re-test portions of the ASVAB at minimum 6 month intervals, with no limits on the number of times re-tested. Members who desire to re-test to improve scores are advised to either use the study guides and practice tests that are available from the learning center, large book stores, or to take specific remedial courses (i.e. math) through a local college to prepare prior to re-testing. SCPO Magill and CWO Thompson are authorized to re-test any or all portions of the ASVAB to members who are currently on active duty who are truly interested and willing to put forth the effort to prepare for improving their scores for these programs. Appointments to re-test can be made by contacting SCPO Magill at ext. 2104.

⚓ March is National Women's History Month. The theme for this year is: "An Extraordinary Century for Women. Now, Imagine the Future." Esther Hines, Federal Women's Program Manager writes: "I salute the military and civilian female workforce at Training Center Yorktown."

⚓ Colonial National Historical Park is accepting reservations for a special four-hour bus tour of Civil War Yorktown and the surrounding area. The tour will take place from 0900-1300 on Saturday, 1 April. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 898-2412. The tour will provide an overview of Yorktown during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign and will visit a number of sites associated with the campaign, including Union batteries, the location of Camp Winfield Scott, and the Confederate defenses. Yorktown's role as a Confederate garrison, siege operations of the Union army, and the evacuation of the town by the Confederate forces will also be highlighted. The tour will be conducted by Dr. Adrian Wheat, a noted historian of Civil War Yorktown and author of "A Civil War Guide to Yorktown," and "Diane Depew," Yorktown District Historian for the National Park Service. Cost for the tour is \$12 per person and space is limited. For reservations or further information, call 898-2412.

⚓ 17 MAR: 1200-1630, Yorktown Chapter CPOA is holding a car wash at Building 156. The cost is \$3.00, and all proceeds will go to the Breast Cancer Research Walk.

Chaplain's Corner:

Worship Opportunities at Olde Yorke Chapel:

1700 Saturday Roman Catholic Mass

0945 & 1630 Sunday Roman Catholic Mass

1100 Sunday Protestant Worship

1145 Daily Roman Catholic Mass

There is also a mid-week Bible study at the Chapel every Wednesday, from 1140-1230. This is open to all personnel and their families.

Safety Tip:

Wearing of Personal Protective Equipment,

Safety glasses

Gloves

Safety Shoes

Hard Hats

Ear Plugs

Can prevent serious injury or death.

Tricare Tip:

What is an EOB? An Explanation Of Benefits is a statement the Tricare contractor sends you or the provider, who participates in Tricare standard. The statement shows who provided the care, the kind of covered service or supply received, the allowable charge and amount billed, the amount Tricare standard paid, how much of your deductible's been paid, and your cost share. It also gives the reason for denying a claim. If you have any questions, call your TRACEN HBA Kathryn Loveland, x2147, or visit Tricare on the web at <http://www.care.osd.mil>

Web site:

The CGEA Colonial Branch TRACEN Yorktown can be found at:

<http://cgea.coastguard.org/>